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Hailed as hero
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Disturbing

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INPORT NEWS

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HUMBERSTONE HALL

Back in time

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Out with the new and in with the old.

Port Colborne's Humberstone Hall, built in 1852 at a cost of 258 pounds, is undergoing a \$278,579 restoration and renovation to make it look like it did those 158 years ago.

see IMPROVING | Page 2

PUBLIC MEETING: Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Committee coming to city

No problem with Port Colborne's water

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A letter sent to residents and businesses in the community concerning Port Colborne's water supply may look alarming, but there's nothing to worry about, says Yorkton with the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Committee.

"There's no problem at all, Port Colborne's water is safe," says committee co-ordinator Brian Wright.

Chair Mark Neufeld says the letters were sent out to grab people's attention and to let them know their property is being looked at as potential sources of contamination identified by the source protection committee.

The Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Committee was formed in the wake of the Walkerton drinking tragedy and an inquiry that followed it. Recommendations made through the inquiry saw the provincial government create CleanWaterOntario.

Under that act, 19 source protection committees were formed in the province. The role of the committees is to develop source protection plans to protect municipal drinking water sources. Niagara's committee encompasses the entire region, plus parts of Hamilton and Haltonland that fall under Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's

jurisdiction.

Neufeld and Wright say the three main tasks of the committee are to develop terms of reference, conduct an assessment report and develop a source protection plan over a five-year period. The final plan is expected to be completed by 2012.

"We're halfway through the assessment report right now," says Neufeld.

Under the assessment report, the committee gathered data that looked at properties in two distinct intake protection zones. Zones where the water source is vulnerable to contamination.

Wright says the first intake protection zone takes a wider area of the city, looks at what it would take to protect some sort of make-up water for the water intake. In the case of Port Colborne, the water intake is located at the tip of St. John on the west. The standard set for contamination to make its way to the city's intake is two hours.

"If there was a major spill from a property in the second zone the assumption is the

water treatment plant might not have time to close the intake and the water could be contaminated. We want to protect that area," says Wright.

Neufeld says various consultant reports and studies have told the committee what potential risk certain properties in the two zones pose to the water intake.

That's why the letters were sent out.

"We have to attempt to let people know in a more direct way that they may or may not be affected by this. Our purpose isn't to scare anyone and we're not saying they're doing anything improper or their property is bad," says Neufeld. He says the committee wants to have open discussions with stakeholders in the two areas to identify any possible risks and to come up with risk management or abatement programs.

The committee's assessment report has been posted at www.sourceprotection-niagara.ca and there's a 35-day period for public comment and input on it. A series of public meetings will be held across Niagara for people to present their comments and their input. The public meeting for Port Colborne residents will be held Monday, March 29, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Roselawn Centre, 296 Welland Ave.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

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■ IMPROVING THE LOOK

Major capital project for city

FROM PAGE 1

The project is part of the city's Gateway Community Improvement Plan to improve the look of Main St. W.

"It's a major capital project for the city," says Stephen Thompson, general manager of Port Colborne Economic and Tourism Development Corp.

When the work is complete, Thompson says, the building will be home to Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce, which now occupies the newest part of the building along the city's main street.

As the building at 76 Main St. W. stands now, the chamber and visitors centre are separate with no real connection between them.

"With the chamber moving into the building, there will be someone there on a daily, year-round basis. And we're currently looking right now at options for the visitors centre, including students, senior citizens or any community members who would like to volunteer their time and share their knowledge of the community with visitors. We're talking with community groups as well," Thompson says. When visitors do come to the "new" hall, they'll be welcomed in a modern, fully-accessible washrooms in a building restored to a look in keeping with when it was built.

It originally served as Humberstone Township's municipal hall.

Thompson says the two fully-accessible washrooms, at the back of the building, will exceed provincial standards for accessibility.

As for the interior work on the hall itself, new trim and wainscoting will match the 1850's period construction.

"We're very excited about this project coming together. The timeline is to have it ready for spring and work is progressing quite well."

Thompson says during a recent visit, contractors from King Contractors, of Niagara Falls, were painting the inside of the hall.

Once all of the interior work is done and the chamber is moved into the old building, demolition work on the 1950s addition, where the chamber offices are now on the east side of the hall, will be carried out.

Restoring the stone work will be done shortly after the demolition.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Ken Gay, of King Contractors of Niagara Falls, lines up a board inside Humberstone Hall. The hall is undergoing a major renovation to bring it back to the way it looked when originally built in 1852.

The hall served as Humberstone Township's town hall.

Other exterior work will be carried out as well, such as landscaping, signage and parking.

A grant application was submitted to help cover costs of the exterior work. Thompson hopes to have good news with that request shortly.

Chamber office manager Edith Wagner

looks forward to the work being complete and moving into the "new" old building.

She says some sort of open house will be held once all of the work is complete so the public can see what has been done.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

Offer rejected

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Union members in Port Colborne have overwhelmingly rejected Vale Inco's latest contract offer, said the president of United Steelworkers Local 6200.

"Our members are angry and disappointed," said Ray Rae last Friday after the local members voted 98% against the Vale offer.

"Our members may be hurting after eight months on the picket line, but they have sent a clear message to Vale that they must be treated with fairness, respect and dignity. They deserve a deal that benefits our workers and our communities, as well as the company," Rae said.

USW Local 6200 represents 112 workers on strike at Vale's Port Colborne refinery. Of the 112 eligible members at the Port Colborne plant, 108 members cast ballots during Friday's vote. There were 101 votes to reject Vale's contract offer and two votes to accept.

Rae said the Port Colborne strikers' decisive vote comes on the heels of a similar vote Thursday in Sudbury, where USW Local 6500 members rejected Vale's contract offer by a majority of 88.7%.

Vale Inco spokesman Steve Ball said the company is not reading anything into the vote percentage.

"Whether it's 51 or 88%, we still see it as a 'No,'" he said. "Our intention is still to reach a settlement, which pleases the workers, the company and meets the needs of the company."

"Where we go from here is somewhat uncertain," Ball said. "The United Steelworkers' current position continues to offer little hope there will be a settlement soon."

The bargaining committee had unanimously recommended that union members reject Vale's contract offer. During meetings last week, strikers learned of efforts made by the bargaining committee to try to reach a settlement with Vale during 11 days of mediated, exploratory discussions.

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portraits

■ **OREST SHYPOWSKYJ:** Port man has worked on one painting for 20 years

Artist inspired by his sister

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — For 20 years Orest Shypowskyj has worked on one painting.

The painting sits in the basement studio of his Port Colborne home and is called Wishing Well. It's a painting his mother liked and one he says will be finished one day.

"There comes a point when you just have to stop," said Shypowskyj, whose artwork is featured on Welland's Wall of Art in the civic square's north entrance, near the Welland Public Library.

Shypowskyj works for the City of Port Colborne's purchasing and stores department, but loves creating works of art almost his entire life.

The 55-year-old, who says he's still 12 years old at heart, was inspired at an early age by his sister Anne.

"Watching my sister pencil sketch horses when I was four- or five-years-old in Pickle Crow, I would get all the details."

His sister captured fine details in the muscles of the horses and other features that brought the sketch to life and made the horses look real.

It wasn't until the family moved to St. Catharines when Shypowskyj put pencils and paintbrushes in his hands.

"I grew up ended up hanging around with musicians, artists and photographers, which drew me to sketching and painting as a hobby. Painting and sketching kept me out of trouble."

He remembers the first colour painting he ever did.

"Most of the colours came out of my parents' frieze," he recalled.

Mustard, ketchup and mayonnaise were his paints and a cardboard box was his canvas.

Though that painting scene disappeared, Shypowskyj kept up with his work. Musicians were some of his subjects.

Shypowskyj, who has played bass in a number of bands, substituted such musicians as Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton and Ginger Baker for the 12 apostles in one painting. The creation, on a 4x8 foot canvas, was given to his godson.

His godson isn't the only one to receive a Shypowskyj original.

Every year he creates his own Christmas cards which are sent out to friends and families.

He's even done some renderings for the



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Orest Shypowskyj works on a piece that will be a Christmas card. Shypowskyj is getting two paintings ready for a showing at Canal Days this year and is looking to develop a website to showcase his work.

City of Port Colborne as well — one was featured in the *InPort* section of *The Tribune* in 2001 and showed a concept of how Royal Canadian Legion Branch 56's 155mm Howitzer would look at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Cemetery. (The Howitzer stands across from the Legion on King George Park today.)

If you look at the self-taught artist's work currently hanging on the Wall of Art, paintings showing Albert Einstein and Grigori Rasputin have incredibly fine details in the faces.

The paintings look very life-like. While he enjoys doing portraits, Shypowskyj has turned to doing paintings that involve more storytelling.

These paintings are something that has

meaning, something you can look at and notice different details each time."

To get inspiration for his paintings, Shypowskyj carries around a pencil and sketch pad wherever he goes.

He also takes a lot of photographs and will sit in locations and paint out scenes if it's possible.

"I like to pencil stuff out first, but it all depends on the medium I'm using, whether it's oils or acrylics."

There have been times when Shypowskyj has started a painting and worked it through the night writing on it all.

A painting called *Woman with Oranges* hanging on the art wall took 28 hours from start to finish, which is, strangely enough,

the time it takes to drive from Port Colborne to his former home of Pickle Crow, just north of Pickle Lake in northern Ontario.

While his work is on display in Welland right now, Shypowskyj is getting two paintings ready for a showing at Canal Days this year and is looking to develop a website to showcase his work.

Shypowskyj's art will hang throughout the rest of the month and into April and he wanted to thank those involved for providing a place for local artists to hang their work.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

INPORT NEWS

Published by InPort News

Osprey Media Publishing Inc.
228 East Main St., PO Box 278
Welland, ON L3B 5P5

Tel: 905-732-2411 Fax: 905-732-3660
mailto:inport@wellandtribune.ca

Ken Koyama, publisher, general manager

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ourview

Attention grabbing

If you live within a couple of kilometres of the Welland Canal, you probably received a letter from the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Committee by now. That letter, which first gained my attention, was sent to me by the committee to let people know their property is being looked at as part of an assessment report being carried out.

The Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Committee was formed in the wake of the Walkerton drinking tragedy and it has been fully followed it. Recommendations made through the earlier plan, saw the provincial government pass the Clean Water Act.

Under that act, 19 source protection committees were formed in the province. The role of the committees is to develop source protection plans to protect municipal drinking water sources. Niagara's committee encompasses the entire region, plus parts of Hamilton and Halton and that fall under Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's jurisdiction.

The three main tasks of the committee are to develop terms of reference, conduct an assessment report and develop a source protection plan over a five-year period. The final plan is expected to be completed by 2012.

Under the assessment report, the committee gathered data that looks at properties in two distinct intake protection zones. Zones where the water source is vulnerable to contamination.

The first intake protection zone takes in a one kilometre area upstream of a water intake. That area in Port Colborne includes the Welland Canal from just south of the tip of "island" to roughly Sugarloaf St. A number of homes and businesses located on both sides of the canal fall into that area.

The second intake protection zone, which encompasses a wider area of the city, looks at the time it would take for a spill of some sort to make its way to the water intake. In the case of Port Colborne, the water intake is located off King St. on the west.

The standard set for contamination to make its way to the city's intake is hours.

Committee chair Mark Neufeld says the letters were sent out to grab people's attention and to let them know their property is being looked at as part of the assessment report hearing presentations and give their input.

The letter was certainly attention grabbing. And while it may have scared some people, we're hoping that it caught the attention of everyone who received it.

Our water is supply is vital and vulnerable, and everything that can be done to protect it, must be done.

We're encouraging people to attend the meeting and hear what the committee has to say.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

Thinking about sweetness

MAHLON MARTIN
Portal Village Bible Chapel

March is maple syrup month. And we think of sweetness, this is the month we spend much time in the bush gathering sap from the trees. Then we took our turn watching the boiler. Sometimes we made sugar crisp. This is just maple syrup boiled a little longer. It tastes real nice but it is extremely sweet.

The title of this article is, I've Been Thinking. We all think constantly from early morning till we go to sleep at night. What we think is the important matter.

The Lord Jesus said, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." So what we think decides our conversation.

When I was much younger than I am now, a few of us teenagers standing in front of our church building. The evangelist who had preached that evening came and spoke to us.

Among other things he said, "Always hang nice pictures in your halls of memory." At that time his statement meant very little to me.

Now that I am older, I have come to appreciate his advice. He was saying we should always keep ourselves occupied that we can look back on our activities without regret.

Not be embarrassed at how we acted, not remorseful at something we said. I have been around long enough to know that this type of memory can be very tormenting.

I think that is what will make hell such a torment for those who go there, they will remember the times they had the opportunity to do good, the times of their love, and take the Lord Jesus Christ into their life. If they chose not to listen to His teachings: "Behold I stand at the door (of our life) and knock, if any person hears my voice and opens the door I will come in." Rev. 3:20.

The rich man in Luke chapter 16, who found himself in hell, was told, "Son remember," when he asked for a ges-

ture of kindness he was denied.

His memory worked very well, because he said he had five brethren. He asked that someone should warn them, "lest they also come to torment."

In Luke chapter 23 we are told of a criminal who died along side of the Lord Jesus Christ.

After he had watched Him, and listen to what He said turned to him and said, "Lord remember me when you come into your kingdom" the Lord Jesus Christ responded by saying, "Today you will be with me in paradise."

Clearly it is much better to remember our need of the Lord in this life and do something about it, than to wait until it is too late and wish for all eternity had remembered to attend to the most important matter in this life. The bible says very clearly, "prepare to meet your God" Amos 4:12.

We are told that because we will meet Him; either as a fearful judge or a loving saviour.

As we get older we say our memory deteriorates. Could it be included to not keep it as busy as we did in our younger days?

At that time we had appointments to keep, business to take care of, shopping to do. Maybe that is why we do sometimes tend to forget the very important matters even when we are young, because we have so many things on our minds.

As we approach retirement much of the pressure is off. Family is grown, business matters are reduced, appointments are less frequent.

Perhaps we should keep our minds active by reading good books.

If reading is not our thing, there are many good places where they are open for volunteer helpers to come in and do fun things for us. So help us out, let's keep ourselves healthy physically, emotionally and spiritually.

We owe it to ourselves, we owe it to our families, and most of all, we owe it to God. It will enable us to give back to society some of the good things they have given to us for so many years.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The regional chair's 'legacy' to Wainfleet

The regional chair is so concerned about the dwindling public beach access along Wainfleet's Lake Erie shoreline that he is supporting the purchase of just three acres to maintain some such public access.

It would be nice to know just how much per acre of your tax dollars is being ploughed on spending?

Also just where the proposed site is and more importantly what shape?

Three acres stretched along the beachfront would be great for the numbers who could make use of it, but of course could only add to the ongoing and still unsolved unsolved nightmare that is any public car parking close to the beach anywhere near the lake's shoreline.

If a deep three acre lot, to include additional car parking, it only turns the beach access into a narrow 'funnel' to allow the public to get on to the beach. Then as they

spread out right and left as beach visitors do, it will add to the other ongoing and still unsolved nightmare of confrontation between visitors and property owners who own the beach in front of their properties. In spite of the NRP's best intentions this 'nightmare' has not yet been addressed effectively.

Thank you for your legacy, regional chair. Can't wait to hear just how many of your summer days, once you have stepped down, you plan on spending on Wainfleet's public access beach!

It's a great shame that you didn't spend more of your time in office paying more attention to existing township, regional and provincial policies.

see PUBLIC | Page 5

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■ PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

Region chose not to buy land

FROM PAGE 4

Had you done so and made your planners aware of them you most certainly could, and should, have brought the Lakewood Beach property into public ownership.

And if the new policies, along with new Environment Protection legislation and the provinces Places to Grow policies, you could still take the Lakewood Beach site into public ownership if you chose to. You do not have the excuse of failing to buy it at the time. You chose not to.

Additionally, and if you are now

really a true convert to protecting our environment, including adding beach access, you need no more than persuade your fellow regional councilors to declare the whole of the Lake Erie coastline, within the Niagara Region, an area of environmental significance.

Now that, regional chair, would be a pretty awesome legacy! Sadly, I'm not holding my breath.

Andrew Watts
Port Colborne

■ ECO-BUZZ

Reduce your environmental footprint

InPort News Staff

PORTE COLBORNE — Learn how to reduce your environmental footprint at Eco-Buzz.

With Ontario's world-famous Fernando said booths, workshops and speakers will be Saturday's event. "We're having a 'crafter' where you come in with your old clothes to donate. You'll receive a ticket for the clothes you

donate which can be used to purchase used clothes," she said. The Hub will also be accepting old computers for recycling. Due to space restrictions, computer monitors will not be accepted. "We're also having crafts for kids and a silent auction. It should be an interesting event," Fernando said.

The event runs from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at The Hub, 72 Charlotte St., Port Colborne.

Ask the **HEALTH EXPERT** UDO ERASERUS Ph.D

**Foundational Fats vs. Fish Oil**

We have heard much about the benefits of fish oil: optimal amounts can reduce the incidence of heart disease, obesity and diabetes. But a typical daily fish oil supplement of 1 to 5 grams is not enough.

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It makes no sense to worry only about the quality of fish oil supplements. These may be beneficial, but healthy foundational fats are far more important because they represent over 95% of our daily fat intake.

Not all fats from foods and cooking oils are healthy. Many are 'damaged fats' like industrially refined cooking oils, shortening,

margarines and non-essential saturated fats like butter and lard.

For optimal health, it's important to replace bad fats with healthy foundational fats that include unrefined fats such as sunflower and sesame, flax, & coconut. Equally as important is to look for oils that are protected from heat, light and oxygen, and packaged in a glass bottle.

For optimum cellular performance, it's important to obtain the right amount of healthy fats, and in the right proportion. Omega-3 alpha-linolenic acid (ALA) and omega-6 linoleic acid (LA) are called Essential Fatty Acids. Unlike the other fats, the body cannot produce them, yet they are essential to the proper function of the brain, eyes, cardiovascular and immune systems. They also promote higher levels of energy, stamina, and recovery, along with improved skin, hair, nails and better weight management.

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EASTER PICS: Visit with the Easter Bunny

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

April Jeffs, left, of April Jeffs Lakeside Studio, and Larry Boggio, right, of Boggio Pharmacy, stand beside an Easter display with an Easter bunny, Jeffs will be taking Easter photos at the pharmacy, on Catharine St. in Port Colborne, on March 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Those that show up with a non-perishable food item for Port Cares will receive a 5x7 print of themselves with the Easter bunny. Monetary donations are also being accepted and donations go to Port Cares.

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PHOTO BY DAVE JOHNSON

■ FREE CONCERT: Event at The Hub on Saturday

Music for Peace in Port

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Bored one January night, Brianna Irvine started surfing the Internet and Facebook where she stumbled on a group called My Secret Is, a site where people can share their thoughts and secrets anonymously.

Looking at the website, the idea of holding a music concert popped into Irvine's head.

This Saturday, the first-ever Music For Peace concert will be held at The Hub in Port Colborne.

"Music for Peace will benefit the Canadian Cancer Society, UNICEF and To Write Love On Her Arms," said Irvine.

To Write Love On Her Arms is a non-profit organization that aims to present hope for people struggling with self injury, suicide, depression and addiction.

After coming up with the idea for the concert, Irvine had to find bands that would come to Port Colborne and play. So she started surfing various websites and contacted a number of bands.

Bands that responded and have volunteered their time and made space in touring schedules include: Leah Sourwine and Samantha Lucken, The Scenario, In Lights, Courtney Blush, Beth Moore, Chelsea Crites, Pompeii Henge, Mother Moon, Xprimes and Universal Thought.

"We want to hold more concerts after this," said Irvine.

Helping Irvine with the concert is her friend Kaitlyn Lascelles.

"Brianna always goes in with big ideas," said Lascelles, adding she's helping out to make things easier for Irvine.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Kaitlyn Lascelles, left, and Brianna Irvine, right, point to the Music for Peace concert announcement on a sign outside The Hub in Port Colborne. The first-ever concert will be held Saturday from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at The Hub, with three charities benefiting from funds raised that night.

The two 14-year-old Welland Central Secondary School students created a Facebook page — Music For Peace — which has nearly 1,200 fans, including Brianna's mother, Brenda.

"I'm very proud and supportive of my daughter," Brenda said.

To help raise funds for the three charities, Music for Peace T-shirts will be sold for \$20 and silicone wristbands will be sold for \$2. Donations

will also be accepted.

The free event takes place at The Hub, 72 Charlotte St., on Saturday, March 20, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. For more information, see the Facebook page <http://musicforpeace.webs.com> or contact Brianna Irvine at musicforpeace@live.ca.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

ALONG THE LAKESHORE

AT THE PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

EXPRESS YOURSELF: Writer's Support Group with facilitators Gary and Kitty Roy. Thursdays 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Practical advice on getting published, finding a literary agent, and copyrights. For more information contact the facilitators by e-mail at groy10@cogeco.ca, or call the library at 905-834-5652.

ADULT KNITTING CLASSES: With Vicki Fretz, Tuesday, March 16th to May 18th from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Thursday afternoons, March 25th to May 20th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. To join the knitters club call Vicki @ 905-835-5373.

RISE AND SHINE YOGA: With Heather Jones of Santosa Yoga Studio. Beginning Wednesday, Mar. 24 to May 12th, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Hatha & Vinyasa yoga, all levels. Please call 905-892-6936.

TAI CHI CAN: Improve your health, well-being, balance and breathing. Mondays 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Call 905-321-9536 for more information.

FILMS FOR SENIORS: Presented the first Wednesday of the month from Oct. to May at 1:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Free admission and refreshments.

MOVIE AT THE HUB

The dark side of sugar

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Think sugar is always sweet? It has a darker side and it's not brown sugar.

The Port Colborne fair trade steering committee is promoting a movie night at The Hub on March 22 with the film Big Sugar to remind us of the dark history and modern power of the world's reigning sugar cartels.

The free movie begins at 7 p.m. at The Hub on March 22. The movie is about how sugar companies can influence the sugar industry today at about 8:30 p.m. One way is by purchasing fair trade sugar at Ten Thousand Villages — which ensures producers receive fair pay for their product. "It's about who is at the other end of the food we purchase," said Jane Nigh of Ten Thousand Villages. "There is a biggest cost to sugar than what is on the price tag. Its the same as coffee, same as chocolate, it's a labour intensive product."

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The Pointers of Group 1-sporting dogs

Sandie Bingley
IT'S A DOG LIFE

The original pointers were developed as far back as the 1500's. But the sport hunters really refined the pointer breed in the 1700's and 1800's in England and Germany.

Pointers include the English Pointer, the German Pointers which can be long-haired, short-haired and wire-haired, the Pudelpointer from Holland and the Vizsla from Hungary.

Pointers have a natural ability to search out prey that is hiding in brush or thorn thickets. Instead of going in to flush them out and possibly get injured or scratched, they freeze in one spot until the hunter arrives.

They stand still and quiet with their head and tail up so usually one front paw will be tucked up as well. They will wait in this frozen position until the hunter arrives. Pointers will search out creatures with either "fur or feathers" that are hiding.

Some pointer will retrieve on land but with their short coat they like cold water so water retrieving if they have to get wet. Because of this, the long-haired and wire-haired pointers were developed. The Pudelpointer was developed from Poodle-Pointer crosses. All of these breeds have a thick protective coat so cold water retrieving is fun for them.

Pointers are clean house dogs and good family pets. They are very easy to train. There are several 24 inch collars at their neck and weight ranges of 50-70 lbs. Smooth coated pointers will probably need a coat for walks on rainy or winter days. If off leash pointers tend to run off farther away from their owners as their hunting instinct takes over. So for safety, keep them on a long flexi-lead for hikes in the fields and parks.

Next time: The retrievers from Group 1-sporting dogs

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COMPETITION: Four students compete at board level

Port High advances to French provincials

CARMEN RESCH
For InPort News

POR COLBORNE — Four Port Colborne High School students — Jacob Bellehumeur, Katie McIntyre, Alicia Robinson and Madeline Taylor — competed in the District School Board of Niagara French public speaking competition, Thursday March 5, at the Education Centre in St. Catharines.

Bellehumeur, a Grade 11 student, competed in the senior level of the core category, which includes Grade 11 and 12 students.

He delivered his speech on theme parks with much flair, which earned him second place ribbons.

Robinson also a Grade 11 student, competed at the senior level as well, but in the extended French category, which means she was up against students who are all currently enrolled in an extended French program.

Her speech was on phobias and she demonstrated outstanding fluency in the question period following the delivery of her speech and third place ribbon.

Taylor and McIntyre, both Grade 9 students, competed at the junior level against Grade 9 and 10 students, in the core category.

Their speeches were on Louis Pasteur and a trip across Canada, respectively. Taylor's pronunciation was extremely

authentic and McIntyre style was expressive and engaging.

This category had the largest number of competitors and the judges awarded both second and first places to Port High.

Taylor brought home the silver medal and McIntyre, the gold. Alicia will go on to compete at the provincial level in May in Toronto.

The first, second, and third place winners of the provincial competition will be awarded \$1,000 and move on to the nationals where the first place winner will receive a \$20,000 scholarship to the University of Ottawa.

Supplied photo
Jacob Bellehumeur, Katie Robinson, Alicia McIntyre and Madeline Taylor recently competed in the DSBN French public speaking competition in St. Catharines with the support of teacher Carmen Resch.



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WAINFLEET

New hiring policy

InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — The township now has a policy to deal with the employment of part-time and temporary employees.

It covers those employed on a student basis, such as summer workers, and part-time library employees such as pages.

It goes into effect March 31.

Ald. Rudy Warkentini asked whether the policy addressed job descriptions for those part-time employees.

"Do we have one where the applicant knows what is expected of him/her to do?" he asked.

Chief administrative officer Scott Luey said any part-time position in the township would have a job description prepared by the person doing the hiring.

The policy developed by staff is specific to compensation of those part-time employees, he added.

The new policy said hiring "shall be in accordance with the Township of Wainfleet employees' association collective agreement, the Township of Wainfleet's hiring policy, the Employment Standards Act and other relevant legislation."

Under compensation, the policy said: "part-time employees shall be compensated in accordance with the Employment Standards Act; part-time employees shall not qualify for benefits offered to those that they are specifically entitled to under legislation (CPP, EI, etc.); part-time employees shall not be eligible for the OMERS pension plan; Part-time employees shall be paid in accordance with a chart, increases are to be effective on the anniversary of the commencement of employment; part-time employees that work beyond four years will receive a cost-of-living allowance equal to that given to the employees' association and are effective on the anniversary of the commencement of employment."

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City of Port Colborne
CORRECTION

An article that appeared in the March 5, 2010 issue of InPort News in the City Hall News insert regarding newly recruited medical professionals to Port Colborne was incorrect. Dr. Mario R. Ventresca, Ophthalmologist, has been in full-time practice since 1989 in the same location at 248 Killary Street West at the Portal Village Plaza. The City of Port Colborne apologizes for any inconvenience we may have caused Dr. Ventresca and his patients."

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FINE EDUCATOR

There is nothing phony or put on by Krar

FROM PAGE 10

Though he has more than 30 years on me, Steve and I both reminisce about the days when one had to do painstaking research before writing so much as a word of news. Steve would type his notes on a typewriter, engines bringing to us almost instantaneously. Then came the writing process itself. Steve would write his books in longhand on foolscap. Alice would then type up the entire type everything into a good copy. If there was so much as one error on a page, caught during the editing process, Alice would retype the entire page.

"The delete button on the computer is a wonderful thing," we both agree.

A few weeks ago, Steve came to Niagara College to give a presentation to my first-year journalism class. His topic? The future, naturally.

The students knew we were hosting a guest speaker that Thursday morning. As Steve and I walked down the hall toward the classroom about 15 minutes before the scheduled start, we encountered a group of my students — about 10 of them — sitting in a mini-journal off the hall, killing time talking to each other.

As we passed, I greeted them warmly and Steve waved. I could see the wheels turning in their minds — who the heck is this unassuming gent Duma's bringing into class?

There were a few students already in class as we walked into the room. Steve proceeded to go to each one and introduce himself personally, asking their names in return. He did this with each student as they arrived. Before his presentation even began, he had charmed them with his warmth. One of Steve's finest characteristics is that there are many — it is the fact there is nothing phony or put on about him.

Well, to say the presentation was a huge success would be an understatement. Through a 20-minute DVD he screened and his own experiences, past, present, and the ones he anticipated, Steve kept the audience transfixed for the full two hours, which

included a lively question-and-answer session. He explained that by 2010, private space aircraft will deliver passengers from the U.S. to Japan in two hours and 30 minutes. Transport freight trailers will be outfitted with two sets of wheels. One set will be used when trucks haul the freight trailers to rail yards. Another set of wheels will then be deployed to take over and turn the trailers until they get where they need to go, of course, but you get the idea.

Steve's point to the students? Either we acknowledge the changing world and embrace the changes or we get left behind.

Born in Welland and raised on Garner Ave. between Hellums and Burger, Steve became an architect for a short time in the 1950-57 school year as a shop student at Niagara Falls Collegiate and Vocational Institute. He moved to Guelph the following year before moving back to Niagara in 1962, when he became the director of the technical department at Eastdale Secondary School. He has never stopped educating and he says he has never stopped learning, either.

Port residents might remember Steve's

brother, Joe, also a fine educator in his own right who later became a school principal, as the physical education instructor at Port High during the late '60s and early '70s.

"My father taught us when you do a job, always do the absolute best you can," Steve says. "Always do it better than they had before. That's what I've done in teaching and in writing. I tried to be innovative. I strived for anything I could to make it as easy as possible for students to learn. They were the focus."

And before his guest can even ask what comes next for him, Steve answers the question. "I'm working on the idea of brain-computer interface, being able to

bypass several spinal chords.

"Imagine people completely without the use of their limbs being able to use their arms and legs through their thoughts," he says with the wide-eyed enthusiasm and curiosity of somebody a tenth his age.

Indeed. Imagine, because in Steve Krar's world, anything is possible.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He is currently a member of the journalism faculty at Niagara College. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at: gduma@cogeco.ca

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GEORGE DUMA For InPort News
Steve Krar takes some time to share his thoughts in what can perhaps best be described as his research lab, the office in his Fitch St. home.

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Machinery incidents remain the leading cause of death and injury on Canadian farms. Tractor rollovers cause one in five work-related fatalities reports a study by the Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting program (CAIR).

"Plan a Farm + Safety" is the theme of this three-year Canadian Agricultural Safety campaign.

"Safety is something that should never be compromised," says Laurent Pellerin, CRA President. "By planning and investing in safety improvements, such as rollover protective structures, you are not only investing in your business, you are also protecting your most valuable resource – people."

Deaths due to rollovers continue to occur despite the fact that rollover protective structures (ROPS) are commercially available as retrofits for virtually every tractor manufactured. Many tractors without a ROPS are still in use, and these are usually older model tractors or tractors that have had the protective structures removed. Retrofitting can pose a difficult decision because it costs for an older tractor can exceed the machine's actual value. However, not having ROPS can cost you your life. Check with your local implement dealer for more information about retrofitting ROPS.

Never try to construct your own ROPS as there are too many variables in mounting and metal strength to design a rollover protection system that is safe enough to protect you. In addition to having a certified rollover protective structure, a seat belt is a necessity. Without a seat belt, the operator may be flung from the safety of the ROPS into an area where the tractor may crush him or her.

Rollovers generally happen too fast for the operator to react. It only takes three-quarters of a second to reach the point of no return. Excessive thrashing, pulling or towing things, and driving up steep inclines are some of the causes of rear end rollovers.

Most rear rollovers are the result of changing the tractor's centre of gravity. When a tractor's centre of gravity is not directly under the manufacturer increases the risk of a rear turnover.

Side turnovers are subject to many variations in tractor geometry, ballasting, tire slippage, operating speed, and ground roughness, making it impossible to give a "safe operating slope". However there are a several things you can do to make working on sloping fields safer:

- Always keep front-end loader equipment in the lowest position possible when in transport.
- Always slow down when turning. • Tractor speeds should match surface conditions. Rough or uneven surfaces require reduced speeds.
- When working on a sloped surface, use a tractor with a wide front-end, and space the rear wheels as far apart as possible. Ballast wheels with weights or driven.
- Lock brake pedals together when driving at transport speeds to ensure even braking.
- Shift to a lower gear before traveling downhill to let the engine and transmission reduce speeds.
- Use rear-view mirrors if you need to keep an eye on rear attachments or loads. Operators twisting to look over their shoulder can cause the tractor to swerve abruptly.
- Be sure the tractor and implements have adequate lighting and are equipped with a bright slow-moving vehicle (SMV) emblem whenever the tractor is driven on a public road.

More information on this and other farm safety topics is available at www.cesa-acsa.ca or www.cafca.ca.

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ALONG THE LAKESHORE

APRIL 1

The Winger-Wainfleet Women's Institute is holding its annual meeting at noon with a potluck lunch in the Friendship Room at the Wainfleet Arena. For more information contact Elizabeth at 905-899-4872.

MAY 6

The Winger-Wainfleet Women's Institute is holding its meeting titled making history at 1:30 p.m. in the Friendship Room at the Wainfleet Arena. For more information contact Elizabeth at 905-899-4872.

ONGOING

Quit smoking support group, every Monday from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Port Colborne Hospital, 260 Sugarloaf St. All are welcome for the supportive and motivating environment. Contact Bridge Community Health Centre for more information at 289-479-5017 ext. 2445.

The Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region support groups for caregivers meets the first Tuesday of each month (except July and August) from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Rapelle Lodge, 277 Plymouth Rd., Welland. For information call 905-687-3914.



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SHIP SHAPE: Getting ready for the opening of the Welland Canal



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

A welder sends sparks flying as he works on Canada Steamship Lines' CSL Niagara along the Welland Canal in Port Colborne last week. The Welland Canal is expected to open soon.

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ICE BREAKS FROM SHORE: Anglers trapped on ice as large crack develops

Ridgeway man hailed as hero

DAVE JOHNSON

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE A 19-year-old Ridgeway man is being called a hero by fellow anglers after he rescued a number of them from the ice of Lake Erie last week.

Barrett Johnson was fishing off of Pleasant Beach Rd., between three and four kilometres from the shoreline, when he noticed water coming up through fishing holes cut into the ice.

"Right away I noticed the water ... and my dad taught me that when you see that, you get off the ice," said Johnson.

He quickly packed up his gear and headed for shore on his sled snowmobile with a friend on the back. Heading toward the shore, he saw a large crack had developed in the ice.

Johnson drove his sled across 30 metres of open water to get to shore.

"The ice was exploding behind me," he said.

Once on land, Johnson headed back out and grabbed three more anglers, bringing them to shore. There were about 20 anglers out on the ice at the time, most between

three and four kilometres from shore.

"I asked everyone if I should call the fire department and they said yes."

Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services and Niagara Regional Police responded to Pleasant Beach Rd. and Sherston St. Shores and Johnson waited for them to arrive.

Once on scene, fire Chief Tom Cartwright and a police sergeant discussed their options and decided to call the Erie County Sheriff's Office for assistance.

"We alerted Trenton, but the (Canadian Coast Guard) chopper there was about two hours away, too far to assist us," said Cartwright.

The sheriff's department's helicopter quickly arrived on scene as anglers on all-terrain vehicles were making their way back to shore.

Johnson said the helicopter rescued one man from the ice who was out walking his dog. The man had become trapped behind the crack and couldn't make his way in safely.

SEE STAY | Page 17



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Barrett Johnson A 19-year-old Ridgeway man is being called a hero by fellow anglers after he rescued a number of them from the ice of Lake Erie last week

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STAY OFF THE ICE

Sheriff's helicopter makes rescue

FROM PAGE 16

"We're very appreciative of the help Erie County Sheriff provided us," said Cartwright, adding the fire department has never had to haul a hill from the county for use of its helicopter.

Standing on shore watching the helicopter make passes in the area, to check for any stragglers, angler Dan Gilmore spoke about Johnson's efforts.

"He's the hero here," Gilmore said.

When told about the hero comment, Johnson said he didn't really feel like one.

"I just did what any Good Samaritan would have done."

As he described the situation though, Johnson said the heroic part may have been when he got the other anglers across the open water.

"I've crossed open water before up north by choice, but I've crossed it many times before up north by choice, but never because I've had to," he said.

Gilmore had to jump his quad across a crack in the ice.

Angler Leo Larahie also drove his quad across a crack in the ice after finding a safe path to shore.

A number of anglers followed Larahie's path, said Gilmore.

The two men said a number of anglers huddled together on the ice and when Larahie found a safe path, everyone followed him in.

"We just made it," said Larahie.

All three men said the situation developed very quickly.

"When we went out there, the conditions were perfect," said Gilmore.

The crack developed, the men said, at about 3:30 p.m. and took 10 to 15 minutes to



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Erie County Sheriff's Office helicopter makes a pass over the Pleasant Beach area of Port Colborne.

break away from the shore.

"We were on a huge ice floe," said Larahie. "The ice is done, no one should be out there now," he added.

Cartwright agreed with Gilmore's assessment.

"The ice has been deteriorating very quickly because of warm weather," he said.

Larahie won't be going back out on the ice at all this year.

"I learned my lesson. This is my fifth year of ice fishing out here and I've never been caught like this," he said.

Cartwright said if anglers are going to be out on the ice, they should have cellphones or a way to contact someone for help and should have some sort of flotation device.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca



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CONCERN: Ways to improve your health

Disturbing numbers

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The numbers are disturbing.

When one looks at statistics broken down for Port Colborne male and female illness and death, it's easy to see a number of ailments are preventable with proper diet, exercise and life-style changes such as smoking cessation.

The leading cause of death up to the age of 65 is heart disease. The leading cause of hospitalizations for males up to the age of 64 is heart attacks and 11.2% of females will suffer from pregnancy complications.

The leading cause of death for males under the age of 65 is heart disease, and the leading cause of death for females under 65 is lung cancer.

The statistics were provided by Port Colborne physician recruiter Joanne Ferracioli during a South Niagara Health Care Corp. meeting at city hall.

She highlighted a number of concerning statistics for Port Colborne and Niagara, and with Lori Ferracioli, a health promoter with Bridges Community Health Centre, provided information on programs in place to help residents improve their health.

"We do have the highest proportion of mothers who smoke during pregnancy, followed by Wainfleet and Fort Erie. And more visits to the Health Centre. I believe this indicated a need for more primary care physicians. And we have three more now," Ferracioli said, noting that 28.2% of Port Colborne women smoke during their pregnancy.

Kleinsmith said pre-natal care is a "huge issue in the community," and said statistics show that more effort must be aimed at mothers before and during their pregnancy.

Starting a woman on the right foot before they're born, Kleinsmith said, is important. "Public health is involved in pre-natal care but a lot of that is not offered in our community. As a CHC we want to form those partnerships and ensure we can offer those services."

She said when the new Bridges Community Health Centre opens in June, the larger location will permit local agencies who can't set up full time in the community to provide additional services.

Mothers who smoke during their pregnancy also have more complications during labour and birth. It's a concern for Pat Schofield of the People's Healthcare Coalition, who highlighted the importance of the new United Way campaign at the former St. Catharines hospital and its large distance from Port Colborne. She's worried about mothers who suffer from complications such as hemorrhaging.

Kleinsmith said the creation of Safe Communities helps address a number of issues including mental health andrimonial self-harm. She said Safe Communities looked at a number of causes of decreased mental health that include using alcohol, drugs, and youths' resilience and their ability to bounce back from life-altering events or tragedy.

"It's all about finding youths and helping them transition best into adulthood. Lots of kids don't have a good start or progression in their younger years."

To help address Port's mental health issues, Bridges is bringing in a mental health nurse who will see its patients or patients who are referred by their doctors, two days a week.

"As we dig deeper in the community we find new gaps in services. We [Bridges] recognize the gaps and missed opportunities and our intent is to recognize these gaps and do something about it," said Mayor Vance Badaway.

Kforand@wellandtribune.ca

Facts provided during the meeting compiled by local agencies

- Port Colborne had 10 times more visits to public health's Health Bus from 2006 to 2008 than any other municipality in Niagara;

- In males up to the age of 64, the leading causes of death are heart disease, accidents and injuries;

- In males 65 and over the leading causes of death are heart disease, lung cancer, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes;

- In females up to the age of 64 the leading causes of death are lung cancer, breast cancer and heart disease;

- In females 65 and over the leading causes of death are heart disease, diabetes, stroke, dementia and lung cancer.

TD DONATES: United Way of South Niagara receives \$4,000



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

TD Canada Trust branches in Pelham, Welland and Port Colborne donated \$4,000 to United Way South Niagara. From left are Leo Rodriguez, manager Welland Niagara St. branch, Nancy Campbell, manager Welland East Main St. branch, Carol Pitre, manager Fonthill branch, Frank Dedonato, manager Port Colborne branch, and Paul Leon, United Way South Niagara campaign chair.

GRANT: Upgrade for centre



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Louise Farquhar presents a Trillium Foundation grant to Linda Marie Robert, Centre Polyclinique Des Aléns Franco-phones de Port Colborne interim president in honour of a \$20,000 Trillium Foundation grant to install a fire separation upgrade.

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TWENTY OFF WORK: Company says steel slowdown to blame

Temporary layoffs at Oskam

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE Twenty people have been temporarily laid off at Oskam Steel Fabricators due to a slowdown in the steel industry, says plant manager Kevin Langerak.

Langerak hopes to have the employees back to work as soon as possible, but couldn't say when that would be.

"There's a lot of work on the horizon right now and we're bidding on a lot of jobs. There's just a small gap right now

between those jobs."

Langerak says the gap between jobs is making it difficult to keep all employees active. The company, at 70 Rosedale Ave. in Port Colborne, has an employee base of 110 workers.

PORTAL VILLAGE PLAZA

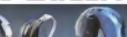
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AWARD: Boys put fire lessons to good use; averted possible fatality

Port creates Municipal Acts of Bravery Award Program

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — City council approved the creation of the Municipal Acts of Bravery Award Program at its recent meeting.

"I'm very pleased to see this report on the agenda," said Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny. Kenny said she'd like to see the first of the city's Bravery Awards presented to two youths who saved the life of their mother and another adult in an early-morning fire on Pares Ave. on Feb. 27.

"They certainly deserve it," she said of the boys.

Fire Chief Tom Cartwright was previously quoted by *The Tribune* in saying the incident had the potential to be a double fatality had the boys not awoken their sleeping mother and the other adult.

Kenny praised Cartwright and the Port Colborne Fire Department for educating the community about fire safety.

Two young boys, through local fire safety education programming, learned to

stay low to the ground and crawl when caught in smoke from a fire, she said.

"For me, this is fire service at its best," Kenny said.

Port Colborne also thanks to working smoke alarms in the home that the boys were alerted to the blaze.

Kenny and Ward 4 Coun. Barbara Butters will represent the city on the Municipal Acts of Bravery Award Program committee, which will determine the award recipients.



Barb
Butters



Bea
Kenny



Tom
Cartwright

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■ PUBLIC SPEAKING: Student takes third place

Blue Bear finds passion for the written word

PAIGE THOMPSON

For InPort News

PORTE COBRENE — When the wealthiest students in the school are deaf, why are they the ones most successful?

Port Coborne High School student Sarah Burger asked her fellow Blue Bears this question.

Burger qualified in the top three in her English class and moved on to share her speech in the school's auditorium and received a second place.

After Port Coborne High competition, challenging other classroom winners, Burger then went on to the Royal Canadian Legion competition on Feb. 28.

At the legion, all of the contests competed against different students from their own town.

Burger's topic for public speaking was unique from the others.

She wondered, "How some people nowadays can make a million dollars and not lift a finger."

With this motivation, she was able to bring her questions to the legion where the audience truly took attention. Burger received first place and moved on to the zone-legion for March 7.

"It was the first time that I have been to

zone but I have been to the legion once beforehand," Burger said.

When competing at the zone level, the contestants are competing against more students from their region.

Burger would like to explain to the spectators that, "We like we think that we don't have to work hard anymore to earn a living and I really wanted people to see how it affects society."

With her strong emotions put into her public speech, she was able to catch third place.

Her journey ended there — this time. She hopes to be able to do this again, and her goal is to go for first place at the zone level.

Burger has grown fonder of public speaking and will not retire that dedication.

"The whole thing was a really good experience for me.

"I have found a passion for presenting the written word."

PAIGE THOMPSON For InPort News.

PORT HIGH is proud of it's very own Blue Bear, Sarah Burger, to reach third place at the zone level for public speaking on March 7.



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